(b) As per the Government Finance Statistics Yearbook, 2008 of IMF, the expenditure of General Government in Germany, France, UK and US was 25,23, 13 and 12 per cent of GDP respectively. However, the corresponding information on India in the IMF publication is not available and these expenditures may not be strictly comparable with the combined expenditures of Central and State Governments on social services in India due to difference in their composition.

(c) Poverty alleviation strategies including Government expenditure on social services have resulted in percentage of population below poverty line (poverty ratio) based on URP consumption distribution falling in the country from 36 per cent in 1993-94 to 27.5 per cent. Recent measures like National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) are also aimed at removing poverty through employment generation. NREGS is especially targeted towards vulnerable sections of society like SC/ST and women.

Increase in stamp duty on insurance products

†2793. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:
SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have demanded from the Central Government to increase stamp duty on insurance products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether insurance holders will have to pay more premium for having insurance due to increase in stamp duty; and

(d) if so, whether any alternative way has been found in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Improvement of road network in Gujarat

2794. SHRI BHARTSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction/improvement of road network in respect of the Gujarat Urban Reforms Project and Gujarat State Highways Project-II have been started; and

(b) if not, by when the work will be started on these two Projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Construction/improvement of road network, with World Bank assistance in respect

of the Gujarat Urban Reforms Project and Gujarat State Highways Project-II has not been started. These two projects have been recommended to the World Bank for loan assistance. They have been included in the pipeline of the World Bank.

Pricing of natural gas

2795. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cabinet Secretary had prepared a report on the issues related to supply and pricing of natural gas after the meeting of committee of secretaries held on 29 June, 2007, 6 July, 2007 and 10 July, 2007;

(b) whether the relevant records related to the above are reported as missing and not readily available;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) if not, whether the same is not being furnished under RTI Act, 2005; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) and (e) The issue will be examined by the concerned Public Information Officer (PIO) on receipt of application under Right to Information Act, 2005.

CAG audit of RIL

2796. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has started the audit of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) with regard to the increased capex approved by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) from USD 2.4 billion to USD 8.8 billion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RIL had supplied all the documents to CAG for conducting the audit as per the guidelines of Government; and

(d) whether there is any time-frame by which the audit will be completed by CAG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Comptroller and Auditor General would conduct audit of Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) in respect of the block KG DWN-98/3 awarded to RIL, for